Unearthing of Buddhist Stupa in Bihar

4117. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is true that the Buddhist Stupa recently unearthed at Kesariya village, East Champaran District, Bihar is claimed to be the world's tallest Buddhist Stupa;

(b) whether Government have proposals to project its unique character in countries with large Buddhist population; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) On the basis of available evidence, any claim of this nature would be speculative.

(b) and (c) Government have no specific proposal in this regard apart from conserving and preserving the existing archaeological remains.

Preservation of ancient monastery of Mauryan period

4118. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an ancient monastery, believed to be of the Mauryan period, discovered by researches of the Indira Kala Sangeet University, is gradually withering for lack of preservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to preserve this heritage monastery ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) As per information furnished by the Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh (Chhattisgarh), and as also obtained from a published article, a research scholar and his supervisor claim to have discovered a Mauryan structure at Amlideeh, a village 7 kilometers from Khairagarh, which is exposed to weathering. However, the available evidence is not strong enough to establish it as a structure of the Mauryan period.

(c) There is no proposal to declare the site as centrally protected.